

Empowering Women Through Education:- A CASE STUDY OF BIHAR

Aakanksha (UG Student), Department Of Political Science ,

Galgotias university

Under the supervision of Dr. Arun kumar Pandey, Department of Political Science,

Galgotias University

ABSTRACT :-

One of the main pillars of society development is the Empowerment of women via education, yet in **Bihar, India**, there are still inequalities that prevent women from realizing this basic right. This abstract summarizes a study project that aims to Analyze the complex environment of women's empowerment via education in Bihar and to identify important obstacles, opportunities, and routes to revolutionary change. The study uses a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys to fully capture the subtleties of women's educational empowerment. to present a comprehensive picture of the current situation, the study evaluates access, quality, retention, and public attitudes regarding women's education. Assessing Enrollment rates across demographic groups, identifying obstacles to education, evaluating educational quality, investigating the socioeconomic effects of educational empowerment, and evaluating the function of how stakeholders may support education that is inclusive of all genders. Anticipated results comprise of implementable suggestions for policy modifications, interventions, and community campaigns targeted at promoting gender parity in education. In the end, this study aims to spark revolutionary change by imagining a time when women in Bihar would be able to realize their full potential via education, opening the door to a society that is more inclusive and egalitarian.

Keywords:- Women , Empowerment , Gender , Education

1.1 INTRODUCTION:-

Here I've got a valuable and the most inspirational statement before moving further ---

***"If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family (nation)."* - Dr. James Emmanuel Kwegyir-Aggrey (1875-1927, Ghana)**

Within the context of international development, women's empowerment via education is a keystone for advancement and social change. Acknowledging the critical role that education plays in freeing women from socioeconomic limitations, this study sets out to explore the terrain of women's educational empowerment in Bihar, India. Bihar, a state renowned for its historical significance and rich cultural legacy, has many issues, one of which is the persistent gender gap in educational attainment. This study is

important because it aims to clarify the complex relationship between women's empowerment and education in the Bihar context. Even while the quality and accessibility of education have improved throughout the state, gaps still exist, especially when it comes to gender. Recognizing the subtle differences

between understanding of these issues is essential for developing focused interventions and legislative frameworks that support gender-inclusive educational environments. Also, Education in India is a key for social and economic progress. Education of girls is vital not only on grounds of social justice but also because it accelerates social transformation. Level of literacy and educational attainment are important indicators of development of any given society. The study intends to investigate a number of aspects of women's educational empowerment in Bihar, including retention, quality, access, and societal perceptions of women's education. The study uses a mixed-methods approach to obtain a thorough grasp of the landscape by combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. This method allows for the extraction of subtle insights and offers a comprehensive view of the situation of women's education in Bihar.

---Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru said, “When women move forward the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves”. It is essential as their thought and their value systems lead the development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation. Another inspirational quote said by swami Vivekananda -- “It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing”.

Its important to look into the key outcomes ,i.e., -

Through the integration of both qualitative and empirical data, this study aims to offer practical suggestions for improving women's educational empowerment in Bihar. These suggestions can include community-based projects to subvert ingrained gender norms, targeted interventions to enhance educational infrastructure and accessibility, and policy changes intended to address systemic inequities.

In the end, this study hopes to add to the larger conversation on gender equality and education by promoting revolutionary change that positions women as active participants in social and economic advancement. The goal of creating a more inclusive and equitable society in Bihar—one in which every woman has the chance to pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher and reach her full potential—can be accomplished via coordinated efforts and well-informed policy initiatives.

1.2 Historical background :-

So , if we talk about the historical background , womens were not in any field , and only that time male dominated society was there,i.e., only males do work outside and generate minimum income just for their survival. Even today also , in some parts of bihar , the old mindset is still exist . these are those who don't want to get educate their girl child for higher studies , they just want her to be inside of the house . and after a age of 16-17 they will get marry. This practice is a traditional one from past decades , which sets a veery bad example on every individual . and also , at that time , women and girls were forced to marry

,because poverty was there at extreme level , so it was minimal chance of paying the fees . dowry system , child marriage , lack of adequate female teachers , lack of sanitation facilities marked a very reality of discomfort and not much development. Girls were also take out of the schools , because they had to take care of household responsibilities , and also early marriage was the sign of this ... lack of toilets in schools drawback the admission of girls in the schools

The state of Bihar, which has a rich cultural legacy and historical significance, has long struggled with socioeconomic issues, one of which is the particularly noticeable gender gap in educational attainment. Gaining an understanding of the historical background is essential to understanding the causes of these differences and the direction of initiatives aimed at empowering women via education. With illustrious establishments like the ancient Nalanda and Vikramshila universities, Bihar has long been a hub for scholarship and intellectual discussion. But when colonial power spread and was followed by socioeconomic upheavals, the educational landscape changed significantly, sometimes making already-existing disparities worse. Education was largely available to the wealthy during colonial control, with little options for the general public, particularly women. In order to further imperial objectives, the colonial education system increasingly ignored indigenous knowledge, structures and maintained socioeconomic divisions.

Following independence, steps were taken to increase access to education and advance social justice, including the creation of elementary schools and affirmative action laws. Deeply ingrained sociocultural constraints, however, persisted in impeding women's educational advancement and maintaining gaps in enrollment, retention, and educational quality. Although the 1960s Green Revolution brought about economic advances, the gains were not uniformly dispersed, which widened the gender gap in employment and education and exacerbated rural-urban inequalities. Persistent socio-cultural norms also presented major obstacles to obtaining an education, such as early marriage and restricted mobility for women.

A considerable effort has been undertaken in the last few decades to redress these discrepancies through lobbying campaigns, grassroots initiatives, and policy measures. The execution of initiatives such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and The goals of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) are to advance gender equality and improve access to education. Despite these initiatives, issues including sociocultural barriers, a lack of teachers, and inadequate infrastructure still exist. Still, there are encouraging indications of development, including as growing awareness, higher female enrollment rates, and grassroots campaigns calling for reform.

This research on women's educational empowerment in Bihar is located with the goal of advancing past contributions, taking on new challenges, and directing the development of a more inclusive and equitable educational environment. We can learn important lessons and get important insights from the historical background that will guide our current attempts to bring about dramatic change.

1.3 Objectives

a) Access to education

b) Economic trends

c) Barriers to education

d) Quality of education

- e) Impact of education on empowerment
- f) Govt policies and initiatives
- g) role of ngos and civil societies plays a greater role
- h) Future directions and recommendations

2.1 Challenges with female literacy of rural Bihar :-

Female literacy in rural Bihar has numerous obstacles ingrained in social, economic, and cultural contexts. Despite initiatives to increase girls' and women's access to and opportunities for education, these barriers have remained. So some difficulties faced by women's an challenges are:-

1)Sociocultural Barriers: Traditional gender roles are valued above everything else in Bihar, as they are in many other regions of India due to firmly rooted cultural standards. Girls are frequently expected to put family obligations and housework ahead of their schooling. Furthermore, because marriage and childrearing are seen as girls' principal roles, investing in their education is seen as fruitless by prevailing ideas.

2)Economic Constraints: Families find it difficult to pay for school, particularly when they have several children, because poverty is widespread in rural Bihar. Few financial resources are sometimes used in impoverished homes to prioritize guys' schooling against girls'.

3. Infrastructure Deficiencies:- Bihar's rural communities lack proper transportation options, clean water sources, and sanitary facilities, among other necessities for an education. Girls are particularly affected by this lack of infrastructure because families may be unwilling to send them to faraway schools because of worries about their safety and practical difficulties.

4. Quality of Education: Even in cases where girls are able to attend school, the standard of instruction is frequently inadequate. A dull learning environment is a result of inadequate funding for schools, unqualified teachers, and antiquated teaching techniques. Girls might not get the help they need to succeed. academically, resulting in greater rates of dropout than in the case of males.

5. Early Marriage and Gender-Based Violence: In rural Bihar, child marriage is still common, which limits the educational opportunities available to females. Poor people's lack of awareness of the negative impacts of early marriage, combined with social standards and poverty, encourage this behavior. Furthermore, girls who choose to pursue their education in defiance of traditional norms may encounter hostility in the form of verbal and physical assault .

6.Lack of Role Models and Support Systems: The idea that education is not necessary for girls is reinforced by the lack of visible female role models in positions of authority and educational institutions. In addition, the lack of mentorship programs and counseling services further isolates girls who want to go

against the grain and seek education. Promoting female literacy in rural Bihar requires the implementation of policies that include targeted financial incentives for girls' education, social awareness campaigns to alter societal perceptions, infrastructure and educational quality improvements, and the enforcement of laws prohibiting gender-based violence and child marriage. Furthermore, encouraging cooperation between local communities, NGOs, and government organizations can help bring about long-lasting change and give girls the tools they need to exercise their right to an education. The Bihar Government has expressed a

strong commitment towards education for all, however the state still has one of the lowest rural female literacy rates in Asia. This low level of literacy not only has a negative impact on rural women's lives but also on their families' lives and on their country's economic development.

2.2 Potential key topics for empowering women:-

2.2.1 Access to education- This first issue involves a thorough analysis of the factors impacting women's access to educational opportunities, with a particular focus on the accessibility of education for women in various districts of Bihar. The geographic distribution of schools would be examined in this study, taking into account the time and cost of travel, as well as the separated education is adequate, including whether classrooms, restrooms, and supplies like teaching materials and textbooks are available.

In addition, this subject would involve investigating socioeconomic variables that impact accessibility, such as parental education, household income, and cultural norms surrounding gender roles and responsibilities. Additionally, it would look into any current government programs or policies meant to increase educational accessibility for females in Bihar and assess their efficacy.

2.2.2 Enrollment trends— It examines the enrolment patterns of women in Bihar over the previous ten years at various educational levels. This means looking at trends, differences, and variables affecting female enrolment rates in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions. Examining enrolment patterns can provide researchers with important information on how women's education is evolving in Bihar. This research may illustrate periods of progress or stagnation in the promotion of gender parity in education by revealing changes in enrolment rates across time. A comprehensive knowledge of the educational journey of women in Bihar, from primary school to higher education, can also be gained by examining enrolment patterns across various educational levels. cultural norms, government regulations, accessibility of educational facilities, can all have an impact on enrollment trends. views in the community regarding the importance of education for women and girls. Designing focused initiatives to remove enrollment barriers and improve women's access to education in Bihar requires an understanding of these issues. Examining enrolment patterns offers a foundation for forecasting future educational requirements and pinpointing areas in need of intervention. For example, policymakers and stakeholders can plan to put policies in place targeted at promoting participation and retention if female enrollment rates plateau or fall at a given level of schooling. It provides a basis for well-informed decision-making and the creation of successful laws and initiatives that empower women by promoting their education in the condition.

2.2.3 Barriers to education— It explores the various obstacles that prevent women in Bihar, India, from obtaining an education. In this setting, cultural customs, societal standards, and financial limitations come together to obstruct women's access to higher education. Social and cultural standards are a major

influence on how people in Bihar feel about women going to school. A cycle of inequality is perpetuated when deeply ingrained patriarchal norms favor male education over female education. Many communities have high rates of early marriage, which throws off girls' educational paths and limits their options for postsecondary education.

2.2.4 Quality of education— It ensures the quality of education is critical to effective empowerment. With an emphasis on the Bihar setting, this topic explores the many facets of high-quality

education, including curriculum relevance, teaching standards, classroom dynamics, and learning results. In order to evaluate the quality of education, one must determine whether the curriculum's content is in line with the needs and reality of women in Bihar. It entails closely examining whether the curriculum covers themes related to women's empowerment, gender equality, and pertinent socioeconomic issues. It also looks at how well teaching aids, textbooks, and educational resources represent a range of viewpoints and experiences. The professionalism and skill of teachers are key factors in influencing the quality of education. Thus, this subject explores the credentials, experience, and teaching strategies of educators in Bihar. It investigates if educators possess the abilities needed to provide welcoming and stimulating learning environments that meet the needs of female students, particularly those from underrepresented groups. Peer dynamics, classroom management techniques, and student-teacher interactions are just a few examples of the factors that can have a big impact on learning. Examining the frequency of discrimination, stereotyping, and gender prejudice in the classroom helps identify potential obstacles to women's educational advancement. Lastly, evaluating learning outcomes offers information on how well instructional strategies and educational interventions work. This entails assessing the socio emotional growth, critical thinking skills, and academic achievement of female students in Bihar. It also investigates how much education leads to more general results like empowerment, agency as well as women's socioeconomic mobility within the state . In the end, it aims to provide guidance for curriculum development, teacher training programs, and policy changes that promote women's empowerment in Bihar and improve the quality of education.

2.2.5 Impact of education on empowerment— Many socio-economic and empowerment outcomes connected to women's education in Bihar are examined in detail. This topic explores how education serves as a catalyst for women's empowerment in a variety of domains, going beyond simple enrollment and retention rates. It is critical to comprehend the transformational power of education in Bihar, where gender differences in educational attainment have historically been pervasive. Through investigating the relationship between education and empowerment, scholars can reveal the many ways that women's lives are impacted by educational attainment. A variety of factors are included in empowerment, such as financial independence, the ability to make decisions on one's own, social engagement, and community leadership. A key factor in improving each of these qualities is education. For example, women with education have a higher chance of obtaining gainful employment, supporting economic stability and household income in the process.

Furthermore, education gives women the information and critical thinking abilities they need to make wise decisions regarding their lives, health, and wellbeing. education gives women the confidence to speak up against gender stereotypes and norms, stand up for their rights, and promote gender equality in their communities and families. Educated women are frequently change agents and role models for younger generations, encouraging an empowerment culture.

2.3 Initiatives that can help to empower women :-

- 1) Increasing the number of women working in all sectors will undoubtedly be beneficial.**
- 2) Because of the current situation with girls working in school, early mindset in their homes have altered. Both the need for education beyond the 12th grade and the availability of jobs are growing.**

3) The SHGs, or self-help groups, have increased the households' and unemployed women's level of independence.

4) In rural regions, a portion of indigenous women rely on handicraft sales as their main source of income. The local group of ladies who come to teach them provide knowledge to the women and girls who do not have access to school.

Empowerment encompasses more than just Within the realm of education, but to encompass all significant areas as well as each and every facet of the human. such as social, political, and economic for analytical purposes. "Economic empowerment" refers to a woman having financial authority. A woman can make a substantial contribution to the advancement of society and the well-being of her family by achieving financial independence. The status of women in the home and community, or "social empowerment," fortifies social ties and reproductive choices. "Political Empowerment" refers to the involvement of women in politics and other decision-making forums.

□ A wonderful tale about the empowerment of women The Kamla Farmers Producer Company, situated in the Darbhanga district of Bihar and entirely controlled by women, has successfully altered the region's image by the encouragement of goat rearing as a means of subsistence.

2.4 Reference :-

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